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12 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Basic and Geographic Intelligence

SUBJECT : Interim Report on the Activities of the OMB
Federal Mapping Task Force

REFERENCE : Memo for the Record, 3 May 1972, Subject: Agency
Participation on Federal Mapping Task Force

1. During the past two months the Task Force has been concentrating on the organization of a data call for an inventory of activities, products, and costs from more than 40 Federal agencies (Attachment 1), and on the organization of five technical working groups. In addition, a dozen detailed briefings were presented by the surveying, mapping, and environmental research units of the Departments of Defense, Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture.

2. The five working groups will undertake a detailed analysis of instrumentation, procedures, and processes in the fields basic to surveying, mapping, and charting, namely: geodesy/surveying, imagery and photogrammetry, marine surveys, cartography, and data handling and storage (Attachment 2). The objective is to assess the technical level of productivity and to identify those activities where advanced equipment and instrumentation can be effected to improve productivity and reduce costs. An influencing standard of comparison in this analysis will be the level of achievement developed by the military mapping agencies -- now in the Defense Mapping Agency -- who are now almost entirely dependent on special source materials. This may well sway the findings of the working groups toward a similar emphasis on special materials.

3. The extended discussions already indicate a build up of great expectations for technological improvement through a broad use of special materials by the civil mapping community. As the Agency representative, I have repeatedly urged that the study of advanced methods and equipment not be biased toward any single category of source materials but should be broadly aimed to the objectives of economy and efficiency alone. The group has been reminded during the discussions of the practical constraints and limitations, in addition to security, that would confront civil agency requirements and

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operations. There are indications that the point is being recognized and that a mix of source materials may well be more productive. Nevertheless, the expectations are likely to continue because ERTS and Skylab will not meet mapping and charting requirements, and OMB thinking is inclined to prevent the development of a NASA system to meet them.

25X1A 4. The Security Working Group (SWG) is now being organized. A draft for its establishment, makeup, and study approach is now being examined in CIA (COMIREX, TCO, TSO) and in DoD (through the DoD member) before presentation to [REDACTED] on 31 July 1972 (Attachment 3). It will be noted that the SWG will be made up of two subgroups, one to deal with special materials and the other with the unlimited dissemination of resultant superior US products.

25X1A 5. When the technical working groups complete their study and their recommendations are reviewed and accepted by the Task Force, the need for special materials will have been identified. In this review the DoD member and I will be taking a hard look at this need to see that the demand for special materials will be warranted. On the basis of this need the SWG will develop proposals to make such materials usable in civil mapping operations. It is anticipated that such proposals will be cleared through COMIREX and, if necessary, transmitted to USIB for notation or action. Discussions have already been held between [REDACTED] Otto Guthe, [REDACTED] and me 25X1A to explore the problem and various alternatives for its solution.

25X1A [REDACTED]

CIA Member
Federal Mapping Task Force

Attachments: (3)
As stated above.

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NOTE: [REDACTED] report to the DDI, "Federal Mapping Task Force Report", 12 March 1973 is of TKH classification and so is filed in D/BGI's files on the 8th floor. *

*In folder: COMMITTEES 2-32
Federal Mapping Task Force

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